

in which R¹ has the same meaning.

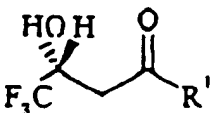
On page 3, replace the paragraph on lines 3-5, with the following paragraph:

Ethenyl, propenyl, allyl, and butenyl can, for example, be used as C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl. Allyl is preferably used.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-7 and replace them with new claims 8-15.

---8. (new) A process for preparing trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives of the general formula



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wherein

- R¹ is (a) -OR², in which R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,
- (b) -NR³R⁴, in which R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl or aryl, or
- (c) -SR⁵, in which R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, aryl or C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl,

which process comprises:

(i) reacting a trifluoroacetoacetic acid derivative of the general formula



wherein R¹ is

- (a) -OR², in which R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₁₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,
- (b) -NR³R⁴, in which R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₁₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl or aryl, or
- (c) -SR⁵, in which R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₁₋₁₀-alkenyl, aryl or C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl,

using microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia*, or cell-free extracts derived therefrom, wherein said microorganisms express an enzyme which is capable of reducing a carbonyl function; and

(ii) isolating said trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives.

8. (New) The process according to Claim 8 wherein the microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia* are transformed with a gene encoding an enzyme which is capable of reducing a carbonyl function.

10. (New) The process according of Claim 9 wherein the microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia* are selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia coli* JM109, HB101 or DH5.

11. (New) The process according to Claim 9 or 10 wherein the microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia coli* are transformed with a gene encoding a glucose dehydrogenase

12. (New) The process of Claim 11 wherein the microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia* are transformed with the plasmids pKAR and pKKGDH, as deposited under the deposition numbers DSM 11902 and DSM 12566, respectively.

13. (New) The process of Claims 8, 9, 10 or 12 wherein said process is carried out a temperature of from 5 to 60°C.

14. (New) The process of Claim 11 wherein said process is carried out a temperature of from 5 to 60°C.

15. (new) The process according to one of Claims 8, 9, 10 or 12, wherein said process is carried out at a pH of from 5 to 10.